

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A call processing method, including:
 - receiving a user initiated communications call;
 - processing characteristic data associated with the communications call at a network switch to determine if intelligent network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;
 - passing said characteristic data to a ~~network service data gateway~~ Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) when said service data is required;
 - processing at least part of said characteristic data by said ~~gateway~~ VIN to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and to determine a communication protocol for connecting to said network location, said service data being required to establish said call, wherein said protocol and said network location are obtained from a Home Intelligent Network (HIN); for connecting to said network location; and
 - obtaining said service data from said network location in accordance with said protocol and passing said service data to said switch to establish said call; and[.]
 - establishing said call based on said service data.
2. (Currently Amended) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, including storing said service data in said ~~gateway~~ VIN for subsequent requests for said service data.
3. (Currently Amended) A call processing method as claimed in claim 2, including deleting said service data from said ~~gateway~~ VIN after a predetermined period of time.
4. (Currently Amended) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~network location~~ HIN is in a central IN service data database.
5. (Currently Amended) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~network location~~ HIN is in a local mobile network.
6. (Currently Amended) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~network location~~ HIN is in a foreign telecommunications network.
7. (Currently Amended) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~gateway~~ VIN is local to a user originating said call.

8. (Currently Amended) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said gateway VIN includes ~~Visitor IN (VIN) computer logic for obtaining and caching~~ configured to:

communicate with said HIN so as to obtain said service data; and
cache said service data for users in the service area of said VIN. gateway.

9. (Currently Amended) A call processing method as claimed[s] in claim 8, wherein said ~~network location is within Home IN (HIN) computer logic including~~ HIN includes a central IN service data database.

10. (Original) A call processing method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said communications call includes a voice, data or messaging connection.

11. (Currently Amended) A network system having:

a network switch for receiving a user initiated communications call, and processing characteristic data associated with the communications call to determine if Intelligent Network (IN) service data is required to establish said call; and

~~a network service data gateway~~ Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said gateway VIN being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and to determine a communication protocol for connecting to said network location, said service data being required to establish said call, wherein said protocol and said network location are obtained from a Home Intelligent Network (HIN), for connecting to said network location; and

wherein said gateway VIN is adapted to receive said service data from said network location in accordance with said protocol and pass the service data to said switch to establish said call, and said switch is adapted to establish said call based on said service data.

12. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said gateway VIN stores said service data for subsequent requests for said service data.

13. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said gateway VIN deletes said service data after a predetermined period of time.

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14. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said ~~network location~~ HIN is in a central IN service data database.

15. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said ~~network location~~ HIN is in a local mobile network.

16. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said ~~network location~~ HIN is in a foreign telecommunications network.

17. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said ~~gateway~~ VIN is local to a user originating said call.

18. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said ~~gateway~~ VIN includes ~~Visitor IN (VIN) computer logic for obtaining and caching~~ configured to:
communicate with said HIN so as to obtain said service data; and
cache said service data for users in the service area of said VIN. ~~gateway.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said ~~network location is within Home IN (HIN) computer logic including~~ HIN includes a
central IN service data database.

20. (Previously Presented) A network system as claimed in any one of claims 11-19, wherein said communication call includes a voice, data or messaging connection.

21. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 11, including a plurality of said ~~gateway~~ VINs covering respective areas.

22. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said service data is public mobility data.

23. (Original) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said service data is terminal network selection data.

24. (Currently Amended) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said ~~gateway~~ VIN includes means for policing messages passed between networks.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the communication protocol is selected from the group of protocols consisting of INAP, IS41, MTUP, and TCP/IP.

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26. (Previously Presented) A network of system according to claim 11, wherein the communication protocol is selected from the group of protocols consisting of INAP, IS41, MTUP, and TCP/IP.

27. (Currently Amended) A call processing method, including:

receiving a user initiated communications call;

processing characteristic data associated with the communications call at a network switch to determine if intelligent network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

passing said characteristic data to a ~~network service data gateway~~ Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) when said service data is required;

processing at least part of said characteristic data by said ~~gateway~~ VIN to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and to determine a communication protocol for connecting to said network location, said service data being required to establish said call, wherein said protocol and said network location are obtained from a Home Intelligent Network (HIN), ~~for connecting to said network location, wherein the network location is within Home IN (HIN) computer logic including wherein said HIN comprises a central IN service data database;~~

obtaining said service data from said network location and passing said service data to said switch to establish said call by using a ~~Visitor IN (VIN)~~ VIN computer logic; and

caching the service data in the VIN computer logic.

28. (Currently Amended) A network system having:

a network switch for receiving a user initiated communications call, and processing characteristic data associated with the communications call to determine if Intelligent Network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

a ~~network service data gateway~~ Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said ~~gateway~~ VIN being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and to determine a communication protocol for connecting to said network location, said service data being

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required to establish said call, wherein said protocol and said network location are obtained from a Home Intelligent Network (HIN); and for connecting to said network location;

~~a Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN)~~ computer logic included in the ~~gateway VIN~~, the VIN computer logic configured to obtain said service data from said network location in accordance with said protocol and to cache said service data for users in the service area of the ~~gateway VIN~~, the VIN computer logic further configured to communicate with ~~the network switch in elements using~~ any of a plurality of protocols; ~~and~~

wherein said ~~gateway VIN~~ is adapted to receive said service data and pass the service data to said switch to establish said call, and said switch is adapted to establish said call based on said service data.

29. (Currently Amended) A network system having:

a network switch for receiving a user initiated communications call, and processing characteristic data associated with the communications call to determine if Intelligent Network (IN) service data is required to establish said call;

~~a network service data gateway~~ Visitor Intelligent Network (VIN) for receiving said characteristic data from said network switch when said service data is required, said ~~gateway VIN~~ being adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain said service data, and to determine a communication protocol for connecting to said network location, said service data being required to establish said call, wherein said protocol and said network location are obtained from a Home Intelligent Network (HIN), for connecting to said network location;

wherein said ~~gateway VIN~~ is adapted to receive said service data and pass the service data to said switch to establish said call, and said switch is adapted to establish said call based on said service data; and

wherein said ~~gateway VIN~~ is also adapted to cache service data for users ~~connecting~~ connected to the VIN gateway.

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30. (New) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the HIN is configured to function as a Service Data Point (SDP) and as a Service Control Point (SCP), and the VIN is configured to function as an SDP and as a SCP.

31. (New) A call processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said VIN is configured to receive said service data from said HIN for said user initiated call, and is configured to not receive IN service data for a second user in the service area of the VIN, until said second user initiates a communications call requiring IN service data.

32. (New) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the HIN is configured to function as a Service Data Point (SDP) and as a Service Control Point (SCP), and the VIN is configured to function as an SDP and as a SCP.

33. (New) A network system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said VIN is configured to receive said service data from said HIN for said user initiated call, and is configured to not receive IN service data for a second user in the service area of the VIN, until said second user initiates a communications call requiring IN service data.